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September 21, 2011

U.S. Department of Transportation
Dockets Management Facility
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Docket No. FHWA-2010-0159 National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Revision

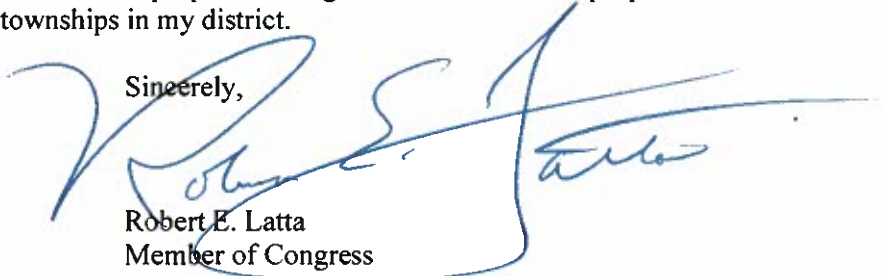
To Whom It May Concern,

Burdensome, over-regulation and unfunded mandates are the number one issue that I hear about from local entities and small businesses across my district in Northern Ohio. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requiring state and local governments to update and replace road signs by 2015 and 2018 is an example of an unnecessary and costly regulation that puts an undue burden on small towns and townships.

One township in my district informed me that this regulation would cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000, or 17 and 21 percent, of their entire road repair and sign replacement budget. For that county alone, the estimated cost for all sign replacement is \$90,000. Local governments in Ohio and across the country have to carefully manage every dollar in their budgets and have already had to make difficult funding decisions. During these difficult economic times, it is simply unreasonable for the federal government to mandate deadlines to force the replacement of road signs that are still safe and usable.

I support the August 30, 2011 proposed amendments to FHA's MUTCD which eliminate the deadlines requiring that certain street name signs be replaced by 2015 and 2018 to meet minimum retroreflectivity standards. It is critically important for communities to be able to replace and upgrade these signs when they reach the end of their useful life. The cost-savings will enable local entities to focus on more pressing transportation issues. This proposed change is a common-sense proposal that I support on behalf of all the towns and townships in my district.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

REL/bap